

## **Alabama SPAB Quarterly Meeting**

**November 3, 2021**

### **Members Present:**

Lt. Colonel Warner, National Guard Task Force in Montgomery  
Brandon Folks, ADMH  
Cheryl Winston, OMNI Team  
Clair Luce, OMNI Team  
Eden Griffin, OMNI Team  
Lauren Blanding, ADMH  
Satavia Mann, ADMH  
Elana Merriweather, MAO and SPAB Co-Chair  
Shai Markris, AltaPointe  
Jason Wheeler, OMNI Team  
Beverly Johnson, ADMH  
T Schweimler, OMNI  
Erin Burleson, Prevention Consultant  
Nicole Shine, PRIDE of Tuscaloosa  
Shalandra Rogers, Prevention Consultant  
April Knight, Northwest MHC  
Deegan Malone, Community Organization  
Michelle Moore, North Central MHC  
Shereda Finch, COSA  
Gail Hooper, Prevention Specialist  
Bruce Kimball, SPAB Secretary  
Tommie Sanders, Wellstone

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The SPAB/AEOW Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Seyram Selase, Chair.

### **II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Agenda – approved by Deegan Malone  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tommie Sanders

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes were sent out. Thanks to Bruce and Elana

Minutes – approved by April Knight  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Shine

### **IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Updates to the Prevention Rates – Per Beverly, rates will be maintained at the current rate through FY2023. Will be looking at whether to maintain the rates as they are during COVID or submit a COLA.

State Prevention Awards – Beverly has no updates. Has had one meeting. Can conference venue be used for the Awards Activity? Liletta would not be able to make it.

CPC had about 1000 members to attend. Open to the SPAB piggybacking on the event. Should have some updates at the next meeting. No questions, thoughts or ideas from the group.

## **New Business**

### **Doug Poole, Guest Presenter**

Shared information on a joint program between the CDC and National Drug Policy. He is working on a collaborative project between ADPH (Alabama Dept. of Public Health and Alabama Dept. of Public Safety) to address drug overdoses. Currently have two positions that will be filled in both agencies to support information sharing between the public health and public safety communities so that both agencies can work together. They are looking at innovative strategies such as criminal diversion programs and treatment opportunities to assist people in need. Contact information has been sent to Brandon. The group pushes out a lot of different information to share with the community. They have an interest in working with the SPAB Committee. Mr. Poole recently retired from DEA and worked in law enforcement after several years and looking forward to working in both sides to support future prevention efforts.

**Seyram** – Is there a conference that would be beneficial for prevention and other providers? Mr. Poole recently hosted the first High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Prevention Summit a few weeks ago and will send out future training and webinar events. Grant programs are also available. HIDTA Cyberforce will be an annual event.

**Seyram** – Provided an overview of DEA involvement in prevention take back and drug pickups. Concerns were presented regarding what results in the delay for prescription drug pick up. Mr. Poole requested some specific spots and contacts to help providers connect with someone to figure out the cause of delays

**Lt. Colonel Warner** stated that the local law enforcement is responsible for the collection, storage and transport to the DEA Diversion POC. They can assist with linking with the local law enforcement. They just completed collected 5000 pounds of drugs/200 tons from the last Take Back activity in October.

### **Chris Sellars, Epidemiologist with the ADMH**

“Here for data collection purposes.” Interested in obtaining data on overdose

- April and Shae – prevalence on substance abuse data, suicide, risk and protective factor
- Eden Griffin – interested in learning more about data availability
- Social Determinants of health
- Seyram – many recent grants are requesting data on health disparities
- How often is data needed?

**Seyram** – quarterly or at least once a year

What will be done with the data?

- Planning and course of direction is needed

- Used to provide data to parents on what's affecting children
- Across the SPF in general, assess needs and support planning efforts across Alabama
- Used for coalition building and collaboration opportunities, looking at risk and protective factors that impact the needs of the total individual
- Demonstrates the impact of prevention work in the community and to share change data with stakeholders

**Chris Sellers** - Screen shared the Drug Use Data Repository which was developed resulting from the Data Committee. Discussed how data is added to the dashboard? Question presented: Is data available and is the data statewide? His contact information was placed in the chat box for additional dialogue.

**Office of Prevention** – Beverly Johnson deferred to Brandon Folks for updates

- Additional supplemental funding received from SAMHSA – 2 pots of money relative to the American Rescue Act – ARPA(FY2025) and COVID 19 (through FY2023). These are one time dollars and providers need to be looking at sustainability.
- Survey on workforce development level and sustainability – They are looking at the continuum of workforce issues across the board. Focus is on recruitment and retention.
- Children's Policy Council – Well attended. Thanked Liletta for bringing in the SA component.
- Participated in community outreach and engagement efforts
  - Red Ribbon Week – partner integration and expansion efforts
    - Satavia Mann – partnered with the DEA initiative "Go Red for Red Ribbon"
    - Expanded to HBCU's – turned landmarks red, RSA Tower, Renaissance and The Legacy Museum.
    - Working closer with the universities going into the new year and expansion efforts to reach the young adult population.
- Providers are actively engaged in community engagement and outreach.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**No provider updates**

**Brandon** – next meeting occurs during CADCA and need to postpone to the following week.

**Seyram** – encouraged everyone to be safe. Continue the hard work that is done in the community to help those who are impacted by substance abuse.

**VI. ADJOURN MEETING:** Seyram concluded the meeting at 11:44 am.

**VII. NEXT MEETING:** February 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am.